



National Association of Development Organizations
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October 10, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: WC Docket No. 02-307
Application by BellSouth Corporation for Authorization under Section 271
of the Communications Act to Provide In-Region, Interlata Services in the
States of Florida and Tennessee

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), I am pleased to submit these comments in support of BellSouth's application requesting Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorization to provide long-distance services in Florida and Tennessee. NADO is a national public interest group founded in 1967 that serves as the leading advocate for a regional approach to economic and community development in America's rural communities and small cities.

BellSouth's advanced technologies could expand the reach of businesses and offer new opportunities for residents currently isolated from the information age. Rural communities in America rely on services such as toll and long-distance calls to communicate with family, essential services and businesses in larger metropolitan areas. Too often, rural communities have access to only a single long-distance provider. Reasonably priced, high-quality telecommunications services are essential for the sustainable growth of rural America.

NADO believes that BellSouth's entry into the long distance market in Florida and Tennessee will encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capabilities that can enhance economic and community development in the rural areas of both states. BellSouth can offer another choice and bring rates down while improving the quality of service. NADO urges the FCC to grant its approval to BellSouth's application.

Sincerely yours,

Aliceann Wohlbruck
Executive Director

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